

Reminiscences

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OUT OF THE PAST

A Sheet of Music

By Gershom Bradford

He played in Gilmore's Band. It was way back before the turn of time in 1900. It was before he had spent a lifetime as a physician and retired. He was that admirable gentleman, the late Dr. Philip Robinson of Marshall St.

The reason I bring up his early connection with music is that, about 15 years ago, I was calling on my friend Dr. Arthur Holmes of Kingston, whose avocation had long been music. I mentioned that we had a doctor in Duxbury who had played second clarinet in Gilmore's Band.

"Are you sure?" he asked incredulously. I confirmed the fact.

"How old is he?"

"Ninety-four."

"Oh, well..."

I asked if he would enjoy meeting him. He said he would indeed.

As we turned in the drive, Dr. Holmes was half way across the yard to meet us. The 2 old doctors greeted each other with fraternal cordiality.

I place the year as 1958 and

date as Aug. 20, for it was Dr. Holmes' birthday.

In the parlor they chatted about the big bands long gone, the personalities they had known and recalled funny incidents.

I learned that the big bands had an enormous amount of music; that one great band maintained a house in New York as a repository for its music. I also learned that

Dr. Holmes and 5 associates were trustees for Gilmore's music when the band broke up. As time passed, their number fell to two. Dr. Holmes and the other survivor decided to divide the music between the 2 Plymouth bands.

It appeared that Dr. Holmes had not yet turned over all, but still had several favorite pieces. He crossed the room to a chest of drawers and after a brief search, selected a single sheet. Upon handing it to Dr. Robinson, the old gentleman became noticeable agitated.

"Dr. Holmes, this is a piece of Gilmore's music. It is Maid Marian (Robin Hood). And with rising excitement he cried, "It's for the second clarinet. I have played from this very piece of music."